

HUMA 2632 (Spring 2020)
CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY
IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

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Class Meeting To be announced
To be announced

Course Description

This course is a survey of traditional and contemporary Chinese cultural practices and social institutions in local communities based on anthropologists' long-term first-hand fieldwork studies of local communities in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China. Basic anthropological concepts and theories about Chinese socio-cultural institutions will be examined. Major anthropological contributions to the understanding of the diversity and unity of Chinese cultures and societies will be explored in lectures on different topics. The transformation of Socialist China will be explored through tutorial presentation and discussion on various chapters from the book *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader* written by an anthropologist.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Comprehend basic terms, concepts and theories in cultural anthropology about Chinese cultures and societies in ethnographic writings;
2. Conduct critical analyses about socio-cultural issues in contemporary Chinese societies, such as kinship, class, gender and ethnic relations, ecological concern, development issues, and so on.
3. Develop appreciation and respect of cultural diversity and understand the importance of cultural awareness for social interaction in contemporary daily life.

Reading Materials

Huang Shu-min. 1989. *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*. Boulder: Westview Press.

黃樹民著，素蘭、納日碧力戈譯。《林村的故事：一九四九年后的中國農村變革》。北京，三聯書店，2002。

A set of articles will be put on the course website <https://Canvas.ust.hk/>.

Films/videos will be shown during the course and drawn on for examination questions. Students should take notes during film shows.

Course Requirements

Requirements consist of attendance at lectures and tutorials, doing tutorial presentation and joining discussion completing the required readings, taking the Mid-term Examination, and writing a research paper. Course readings are on the course website. Students are expected to keep up with the readings according to the schedule.

Grading

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|---|-----|
| Class and tutorial (Attendance, presentation and participation) | 100 |
| Mid-term Examination (open book) | 200 |
| Research Project (proposal & report) | 200 |
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| Total | 500 |

Research Project: Ethnographic research on the continuity and transformation of particular Chinese cultural practices

Marking Scheme

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| Data | : | /60 |
| Analysis | : | /50 |
| Application of concepts from course materials | : | /50 |
| Format | : | /40 |
| <hr/> | | |
| Total | | /200 |

Class Topics and Readings

(A) Introduction: Anthropology and its Methods

1. Course introduction

2. The Scope of Anthropology

Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 1: The Study of Humanities," Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. (Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth), pp. 1-12.

3. **The anthropological Study of Culture**

Garrick Bailey and James Peoples, "Chapter 2: Culture," Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. (Belmont, CA.: West/Wadsworth), pp. 15-25.

(B) **Anthropological Paradigms on Traditional China**

4. **Family**

Myron L. Cohen. 1970. "Developmental Process in the Chinese Domestic Group." In Maurice Freedman, ed., *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*, pp. 20-36. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

5. **Lineage**

Jack M. Potter. 1970. "Land and Lineage in Traditional China." In Maurice Freedman, ed., *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*, pp. 121-138. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

6. **Gender and Marriage**

Margery Wolf. 1972. "Chapter 3: Uterine Families and the Women's Community." In *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*, pp. 32-41. Stanford, CA.: Stanford University Press.

7. **Rural Life**

John A. Brim. 1974. "Village Alliance Temples in Hong Kong." In Arthur P. Wolf, ed., *Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society*, pp. 93-104. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

8. **Regional and Marketing System**

施堅雅著，史建云等譯 1998[1964] "第一部分"。《中國農村的市場與社會結構》，頁 5-67。北京：中國社會科學出版社。

9. **Religion**

Arthur P. Wolf. 1974. "Gods, Ghost, and Ancestors." In Arthur P. Wolf, ed., *Religion and Ritual in Chinese Society*, pp. 131-182. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

10. **State and Society**

James Watson. 1985 "Standardizing the Gods: The Promotion of Tien Hou ("Empress of Heaven") Along the South China Coast, 960-1960." In David Johnson, Andrew J. Nathan, and Evleyn S. Rawski, eds., *Popular Culture in Late Imperial China*, pp. 292-324. Berkeley University of California Press.

(C) Anthropological Studies on Contemporary China

11. *Guanxi* as Social Relations

Yan, Yunxiang. 1996. "The Culture of *Guanxi* in a North China Village." *The China Journal* 35: 1-25.

12. Cities, Urbanization, and the Flowing Population

Siu-woo Cheung. 2019. "Festivals and Re-ethnicization of China's Miao Migrant Community: Culture for Network Linkage and Institutional Embeddedness." *Asian Education and Development Studies*,

13. Consumption and Economic Behavior

Yan Yunxiang. 2000. "Of Hamburgers and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing." In Deborah S. Davis, ed. *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China* pp. 201-225.

14. Ethnicity

Cheung Siu-woo. 2012. "Appropriating Otherness and the Contention of Miao Ethnic identity in Southwest China." *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 142-169.

(D) Transformation of Socialist China

(Tutorial presentation and Discussion)

1. Prologue: Anthropological research

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 1: Prologue" and "Chapter 2: Family History." In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 11-24, 25-40. Boulder: Westview Press.

(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

2. The Transition to Socialism

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 3: The Liberation" and "Chapter 4: Hunger, Hunger." In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 41-68. Boulder: Westview Press.

(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

3. The Years of Chaos

Shu-min Huang. 1989. "Chapter 5: Joining the Act" and "Chapter 6: Return Home," In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party*

Leader, pp. 69-128. Boulder: Westview Press.
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

4. The Rural Reform 1

Shu-min Huang. 1989. “Chapter 7: Security Head.” and “Chapter 8: Prosperous Years”
In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 151-174. Boulder: Westview Press.
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

5. The Rural Reform 2

Shu-min Huang. 1989. “Chapter 9: The Breakup.” and “Chapter 10: Village Cadres.”
In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 175-198. Boulder: Westview Press.
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)

6. Post-Mao Transformation

Shu-min Huang. 1989. “Chapter 11: Village Changes in the 1990s ” and “Chapter 12: Wither Lin Village.” In *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*, pp. 199-226. Boulder: Westview Press.
(Reading for tutorial presentation and discussion)